Bronze no Tenshi
Volume 6
Chapter 23

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Vol. 23 White. Cold Cage

THE ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN FIRST LIEUTENANT D'ANTHES AND MISS EKATERINA...
IS THE TALK OF THE TOWN...
IS HE SUCH A ROMANTIC MAN?
I THINK HE IS A FOOLISH PHILANDERER WHO WENT TO FAR CHASING A MARRIED WOMAN, AND WAS FORCED TO MARRY HER SISTER.
THAT'S WHAT PUSHKIN WANTED!
D'ANTHES IS PAYING FOR HIS MISTAKES. BUT IT'S UNFORGIVABLE THAT PUSHKIN IS SO ELATED WITH HIS SUCCESS!
BUT IT'S SO ARTIFICIAL, DON'T YOU THINK?
EVERYONE FIND IT SUSPICIOUS.
POOR D'ANTHES.
HE'S PROTECTING THE HONOUR OF THE WOMAN HE LOVES, NATALIA,
BY SACRIFICING HIMSELF WHAT A GENTLEMAN.
HE LOOKED UTTERLY DEPRESSED,
AND THEN ODDLY EXCITED AGAIN

WHEN D'ANTHES, AS EKATERINA'S FIANCÉ, GOES TO PAY A COURTESY VISIT TO PUSHKIN'S HOUSE,
HE'S NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER
PUSHKIN SENDS BACK LETTERS FROM D'ANTHES WITHOUT READING THEM
IF THEY EVEN MEET ON THE STREET, PUSHKIN WILL IGNORE D'ANTHES
AND SO,
WITH THIS ODD ENGAGEMENT,
PUSHKIN IS MAKING IT CLEAR TO EVERYONE THAT HE INDEED DEFEATED HEECKEREN'S SON

POOR D'ANTHES.
PUSHKIN ISN'T BEING MATURE AT ALL!
IF THEY REACHED THIS AGREEMENT TO AVOID THE DUEL, THEN HE SHOULD FORGIVE AND FORGET AND EXTEND THE HAND OF FRIENDSHIP
HANG ON, NATALIA ♡
THEN ISN'T EKATERINA PITIFUL?
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO AREN'T SATISFIED WITH THIS ENGAGEMENT
NESSELRODE, THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
WANTED D'ANTHES TO MARRY HIS DAUGHTER
MY DAUGHTER VICTORIA IS VERY UPSET
THAT'S ALL MY FAULT
THEY ARE SO CRUEL
I'M SORRY, NESSELRODE
AH!! DON'T GO TOO FAR
BECAUSE YOU PAMPER D'ANTHES TOO MUCH
!
HIS MAJESTY IS HERE

Achoo!
rustle
YES, VERY COLD.
IT IS COLD TODAY, NESSELRODE.
YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR CAPE.
swish

YOUR MAJESTY?
THIS SCANDAL HAS CAUSED YOU TO LOSE FAVOUR WITH THE TSAR,
HEEC-KEREN
THAT'S A PITY
THAT LETTER HINTED AT AN AFFAIR MRS PUSHKIN AND THE TSAR
WHAT IF PUSHKIN TOLD THE TSAR.
THAT I WROTE IT?

I
IDALIA POLETIKA...
THAT WOULD BE MY DOWN-FALL
WHAT A PITY, AMBASSA-DOR HEEC-KEREN
THIS WOMAN WAS THE ONE
WHO STARTED EVERY-THING

MR HEECKEREN,
I WANTED TO INFORM YOU ABOUT SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOUR SON
EXCUSE ME...
I HAVE AN URGENT MATTER TO ATTEND TO.
SHE SUGGESTED THE LETTER...
WHAT?
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT NATALIA
SHE'S CHANGED SHE'S NOT BEEN THE SAME AFTER THIS UPROAR ABOUT THE DUEL...
ISN'T THAT NATURAL?
HER FEELINGS ARE WHAT PUT HER LOVED ONES IN DANGER...
I WONDER IF THEY MET...
THE NIGHT AFTER HE FINISHED HIS NIGHT GUARD ASSIGNMENT...
NATALIA SPENT THE NIGHT AWAY FROM HOME QUITE STRANGE.
SHE WAS SUPPOSEDLY NURSING HER ILL BROTHER,
BUT I SAW THE BROTHER THE NEXT DAY AND HE LOOKED PERFECTLY HEALTHY.
HE HADN'T BEEN ILL AT ALL.
WAS D'ANTHES HOME THAT NIGHT?

I'M SORRY, MASTER HEECKEREN!
THE YOUNG MASTER ORDERED ME TO TAKE THE MONEY TO THAT INN...
ENOUGH ALREADY! YOU CAN LEAVE.
IS GEORGES SLEEPING?
THE YOUNG MASTER HAD A SLIGHT FEVER SO HE WENT TO REST.
IN HIS ROOM?
HE TRIED TO ELOPE...
THROWING EVERYTHING AWAY...
AND LEAVING ME BEHIND...

HOW DID HE DARE...
TO BETRAY ME?
SLAP

YOU DON'T KNOW HOW ANGRY I AM...
HAVE YOU EVER TRIED TO GUESS MY FEELINGS?
THE FEELINGS OF A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN LEFT BEHIND IN POSITION SO MISERABLE IT'S LIKE DEATH,
WHO ENDURED SO MUCH HARDSHIP ONLY FOR YOUR SAKE?
THE FEELINGS OF A PERSON WHO'S BEEN DESTROYED BY YOU...
BECAUSE OF A SELFISH AND IMPOSSIBLE LOVE!!
ARE YOU RESENTFUL?
I DIDN'T ELOPE AFTER ALL. I BEHAVED LIKE A GOOD SON AND I'M EVEN GOING TO GET MARRIED OBEDIENTLY...
EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS LIVING A LIFE WITHOUT LOVE OR HOPE...

ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME THAT I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL?
WHAT I'VE ACHIEVED ISN'T ENOUGH FOR YOU?
ALTHOUGH YOU WERE THE ONE CONSTANTLY PESTERING ME ABOUT STATUS AND WEALTH?
I'M MORE THAN JUST A WOMAN!
SNEER
YES
I TOOK ADVANTAGE OF YOUR DESIRE FOR ME.
I CAN'T EVEN BELIEVE IT MYSELF
HA HA HA HA
HE IS MAKING FUN OF ME
THEN...
I SHOULD MAKE YOU ATONE FOR THAT DESIRE.

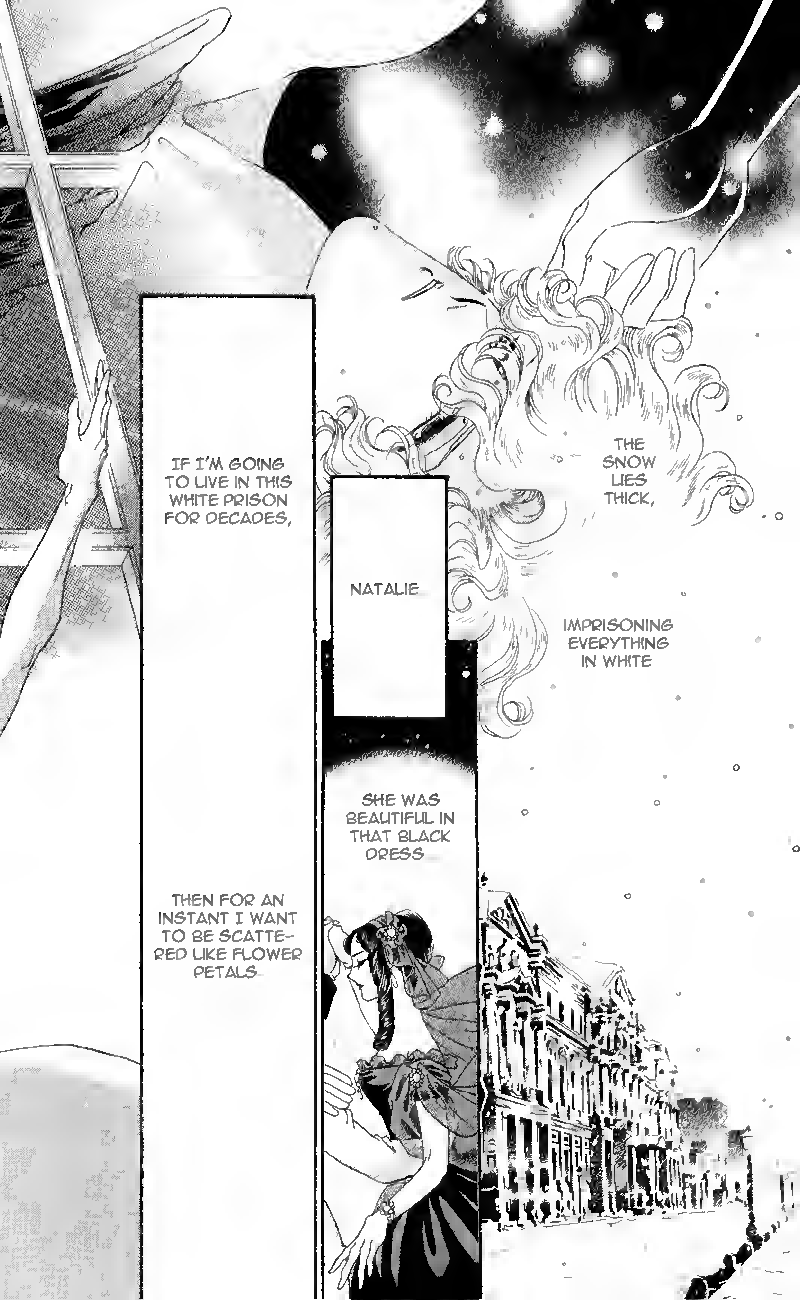
RIP
!
THUD
STOP..
AH
...

STOP...
shing

I ALWAYS KEEP IT AT THE BEDSIDE
YOU'LL KILL ME,
AND THEN SNATCH AWAY ALL THAT I HAVE?
YOU INGRATE!"
!
GEOR-GES!?

I'M SERIOUS!
I'M FED UP WITH BEING TOLD WHAT I HAVE TO DO
I WILL KILL MYSELF!
...
I FELT INCLINED TO LEAVE IT TO FATE
TO GROW TO LIKE EKATERINA IN MY OWN WAY...
FOR THE SAKE OF NATALIA'S HAPPINESS
BUT NATALIA'S HAPPINESS IS FAR OFF NOW
THERE IS NO MEANING
IN GETTING MARRIED, STAYING IN THIS COUNTRY AND BEING YOUR SON
YOU ARE GOING TO ABANDON EKATERINA AND RUN AWAY AT THIS LATE HOUR!?
PUSHKIN WON'T JUST STAND ON THE SIDELINES IF YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT
HE WILL CHALLENGE YOU TO A DUEL AGAIN AT ONCE

IT'S ALL RIGHT, I WANT TO DIE
IT WILL BE BETTER IF I AM DEAD
I GET IT, GEORGES
DON'T DO ANYTHING
...
PUT THE KNIFE DOWN
YOU SHOULD REST
YOU HAVE A FEVER
GET OUT
GET OUT
Close
THIS IS...
POISON!


IF I'M GOING TO LIVE IN THIS WHITE PRISON FOR DECADES,
THEN FOR AN INSTANT I WANT TO BE SCATTERED LIKE FLOWER PETALS
NATALIE
SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL IN THAT BLACK DRESS
THE SNOW LIES THICK,
IMPRISONING EVERYTHING IN WHITE

MY ANGEL OF DEATH
SHOW ME THE WAY
TO A WORLD OF FREEDOM

New Year's Eve party
Vyazemsky's Mansion
WELL, THIS YEAR WAS PROSPEROUS,
PRINCE VYAZEMSKY
THE PARTY AT YOUR HOUSE IS BECOMING A NEW YEAR'S EVE CUSTOM
IT'S A PLEASURE TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR HERE
ENJOY YOURSELVES UNTIL MORNING
THE DANCE IS ABOUT TO START
PLEASE, COME INSIDE

AH...
HMM?
WELCOME ZAGRYAZHSKAYA, EKATERINA
THAT MAN
I FORBADE HIM TO COME TO THIS HOUSE...
SSSHH, DEAR!
OF COURSE
THE WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE IN TEN DAYS, WON'T IT? I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO IT
I HOPE IT'S OKAY
THIS YEAR WE'VE INVITED EKATERINA'S FIANCE
MRS. VYAZEMSKY

D'ANTHES!
HAVE YOU RECOVERED FROM YOUR ILLNESS?
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.
AUNT
WHAT'S THE MATTER, EKATERINA?
D'ANTHES,
PUSHKIN AND HIS WIFE ARE COMING
I EARNESTLY ASK YOU NOT TO CAUSE AN UPROAR
D'ANTHES TOLD ME THAT HE WANTED TO COME TO THIS PARTY NO MATTER WHAT
I THINK HE HAS SOMETHING IN MIND...
PUSHKIN!

MADAME, YOU TOO.
O'ANTHES IS HERE. IGNORE HIM.
!
ABSTAIN FROM FLIRTING ESPECIALLY WITH THAT MAN
YES
NATALIA...

I WOULD RATHER YOU DIDN'T SMILE AT ANYBODY NOT EVEN ME
MY ATTITUDE IS THE SAME WITH EVERYBODY
IT'S VERY PAINFUL TO SEE YOU TRYING TO DECEIVE YOUR HEART
WHEN WILL NATALIA RETURN TO HER FORMER SELF?
SASHA?

WHAT IS IT?
YOU SHOULD TELL ME CLEARLY THAT IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE FOR YOU
TO SEE YOUR FIANCE STARING AT YOUR SISTER
I WILL NEVER SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT

I APPRE-
CIATE YOUR
HUMILITY,
BUT DON'T
EXPECT ANY
FURTHER
GRATITUDE
FROM ME
EKATERINA
YOU ARE
HERE TOO
SASHA
WENT TO
BRING
SOME
CHAM-
PAGNE
WHERE
IS YOUR
FIANCE?
EKATE-
RINA?
NATALIA,
STOP ACTING
LIKE THAT.
OPEN YOUR
EYES!!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO KEEP DENYING REALITY?
EVERYONE THINKS YOU'VE BECOME STRANGE
BECAUSE OF THE WAY YOU ACT
DON'T THINK YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO SUFFERS!
I'M SUFFERING TOO
YOU
EKATERINA
AREN'T YOU GOING TO GET MARRIED?
IN TEN DAYS
HE WILL BE YOUR

NATA...
I'M THE LOWEST
I LECTURED HER
WHEN THE TRUTH IS THAT I WAS JEALOUS
NATALIA?

GOOD-
BYE...
GEORGES
D'ANTHES
WAS
MINE.
JUST FOR
A SHORT
TIME!
FOR-
EVER.

kyaaa
SOME-ONE JUST KISSED ME!
WHO WAS IT?
Ooh
TURN OUT THE LIGHTS
THEY ARE GOING TO SET THEM OFF IN THE GARDEN
FIRE-WORKS!
GET YOUR CHAMPAGNE GLASSES READY
A NEW YEAR WILL BE HERE SOON!
Grip
STOP, DEAR!
I WILL HAVE THE FIRST SWIM OF THE YEAR!

LET ME GO...
PLEASE...

IT'S A NEW YEAR!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
KABOOM
KABOOM
Ooh
Wow
Aah

I WANT YOU.
DID HE...
I REALLY HATE YOU!!
DON'T MAKE A FOOL OF ME!
DON'T DO THIS AGAIN!
WHY

IN SUCH A PLACE,
AND AT SUCH A TIME...
...JUST BECAUSE IT'S DAD!
YOU DIDN'T USED TO BE THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD DO SOME-THING LIKE THIS
I CAN'T HELP IT.
THE QUALITY OF MY LOVE HAS CHANGED
MY GOOD-FOR-NOTHING PATIENCE IS GONE
WHY?
YOU AND I
ON EARTH?
WERE MIS-TAKEN FROM THE BEGIN-NING.
IT WAS A FARCE TILL THE END, AFTER ALL.
"THE END."

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE IS THINKING
IT WOULD BE A PITY IF WE DIDN'T ENJOY WHAT LITTLE TIME WE HAVE LEFT.
HAS HE GONE MAD!?

LET'S HAVE A GOOD TIME TOGE-THER NEXT TIME, SIS-TER
!
NATALIA!
YOUR HUSBAND IS HERE
LET'S PART.
!
DID HE DO SOMETHING TO YOU?
...
IT'S AS EKATERINA SAID.
NATALIA, THAT WAS
D'AN-THES?

NO, HE DIDN'T...
NOBODY WILL HELP HIM
IF HE BECOMES STRANGE
HAS NATALIA
RETURNED TO NORMAL?

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